ment of old and worn out equipments are in progress.

(ii) Replacement of fault prone cables by jelly filled Cables.

(iii) Induction of modern testing aids.

(iv) Proposed expansion of Exchanges in West Godavari District during 1997-98 is about 20,000 lines in 29 Nos. of Exchanges. It is also proposed to install 10 Nos. of 30 Channel UHF, one No. of 120 Channel UHF and 3 Nos. of Optical Fibre link in West Godavari District during 1997-98.

Construction Projects of Telecom Echange in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

440. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in completing construction projects of Telecom Exchanges in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of proposal are pending for completion of construction of buildings for housing exchanges in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the status of the proposal to upgrade telecom facilities at Dharmajibudem Panchayat in West Godavari district; and

(d) the details of the status of telecom facilities at Dharmajibudem, West Godavari district?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes ,Sir.

(b) 13 Proposals are under process for construction of buildings for housing exchanges in West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Present status of Dharmajigudem Exchange.

1.	Type of Exchange	128P C-DOT
2.	Capacity	88 lines
3.	Working connections	86 lines
4.	Waiting list (Genl)	51
5.	Plan for 96-97	Expansion by kit is expected to be completed during this month
6.	Medium available	3 Channels system to Eluru
7.	Medium planned	UHF system between Chintalapudi and Eluru with 30 Channels dropping at Dharmajigudem after construction of building Tower in 1997-98.
8.	Other facility	Indialing to Eluru exists.
9.	STD Plans	Planned for 97-98 after commissioning of UHF system.

Restoration of Telecom services in Cyclone Hit Areas in East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh

441. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of villages and towns like Amalapuram in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh are without telecom services after the recent cyclone;

(b) whether it is a fact that less than 50% of phones are working in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh since the recent cyclone;

(c) if so, whether senior officials from Andhra Pradesh Telecom visited East Godavari district;

(d) the details of steps taken since 8th November, 1996 to restore telecom services in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the number of new exchanges in East Godavari district Andhra Pradesh proposed to be opened in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above. However CGM and other senior officers of Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle have visited the area.

(d) The details are given in statement (*See* below).

(e) At present there are no proposals to open new Telephone Exchanges in East Godavari district during 1997-98.

Statement

Restoration work was taken up on war footing and stores for restoration were rushed from other parts of the state and also from adjoining states. Special arrangements of stores and funds were made by Telecom HQrs. The development teams were also pressed in service for restoration of the services. To avoid delay in restoration of Trunk Services, Radio Systems were installed in place of overhead Trunk Systems.

Revival Plan for ITI

442. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration Rs. 500 crore revival package for ITI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether action has been taken to ensure that ITI is not referred to BIFR and its revival plan is set into motion; and

(d) the cost and time schedule of the revival scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) Various requests from company, in particular, enhancement of Government equity by Rs. 200 crores, grant of soft loan of Rs. 150 crores, financial support for Rs. 27 crores during 1996-97 and Rs. 35 crores per year during the 9th Plan Period for operating Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), refund of expenditure incurred on accounts of R&D activities to the tune of Rs. 15 crores during 1996-97 and Rs. 30 crores per year during the first three years of 9th Plan Period, reimbursement on account of social costs, waiver of LD charges have been received.

While Dot have already taken certain steps viz. enhancement of advances against Purchase Orders from 50% to 75% up to 31-3-1997, release of an adhoc amount of Rs. 62 crores on account of liquidated damages and other financial issues, additional orders to ITI during the current year and for the next year, compensating the Company for the losses suffered in running their Srinagar (J&K) Unit, the other proposals of the Company viz. enhancement of equity, grant of long-term soft loan and financial support for VRS and R&D etc. are being examined in consultation with other concerned Ministries/Departments.

Reference to BIFR is mandatory in terms of the provisions of Sec. 23 of the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985, if the networth of a company drops below 50% of the peak networth during the preceding 4 years. As the networth of ITI has reduced by more than 50% reference to BIFR has been made by the Company.